



Violence and Aggression experienced by New Zealand Nurses

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www.nzno.org.nz



New Zealand Nurses Organisation

Tōpūtanga Tapuhi Kaitiaki o Aotearoa

NZNO is the leading professional nursing association and union for nurses in Aotearoa New Zealand, representing 51,000 nurses, midwives, students, kaimahi hauora and health workers on professional and employment matters.





Background

- Violence and aggression against nurses is common in health care settings but national data for New Zealand is lacking
- Significant climate of under-reporting; hospital reporting systems do not give an accurate rates



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Aims

To determine the prevalence of violence and aggression against New Zealand nurses.



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Methods

- Web based questionnaire – Survey Monkey Pro
- A random 10% sample of members of NZNO were invited to participate (n=4846)
- Responses from n=1436 (response rate = 29.6%)
- Results collated and comments coded thematically



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Questions

- Experience of physical assault, verbal assault and sexual innuendo perpetrated by patients/service users or relatives
- Frequency of experience
- Impact and response
- Reporting of incident
- Satisfaction with outcome



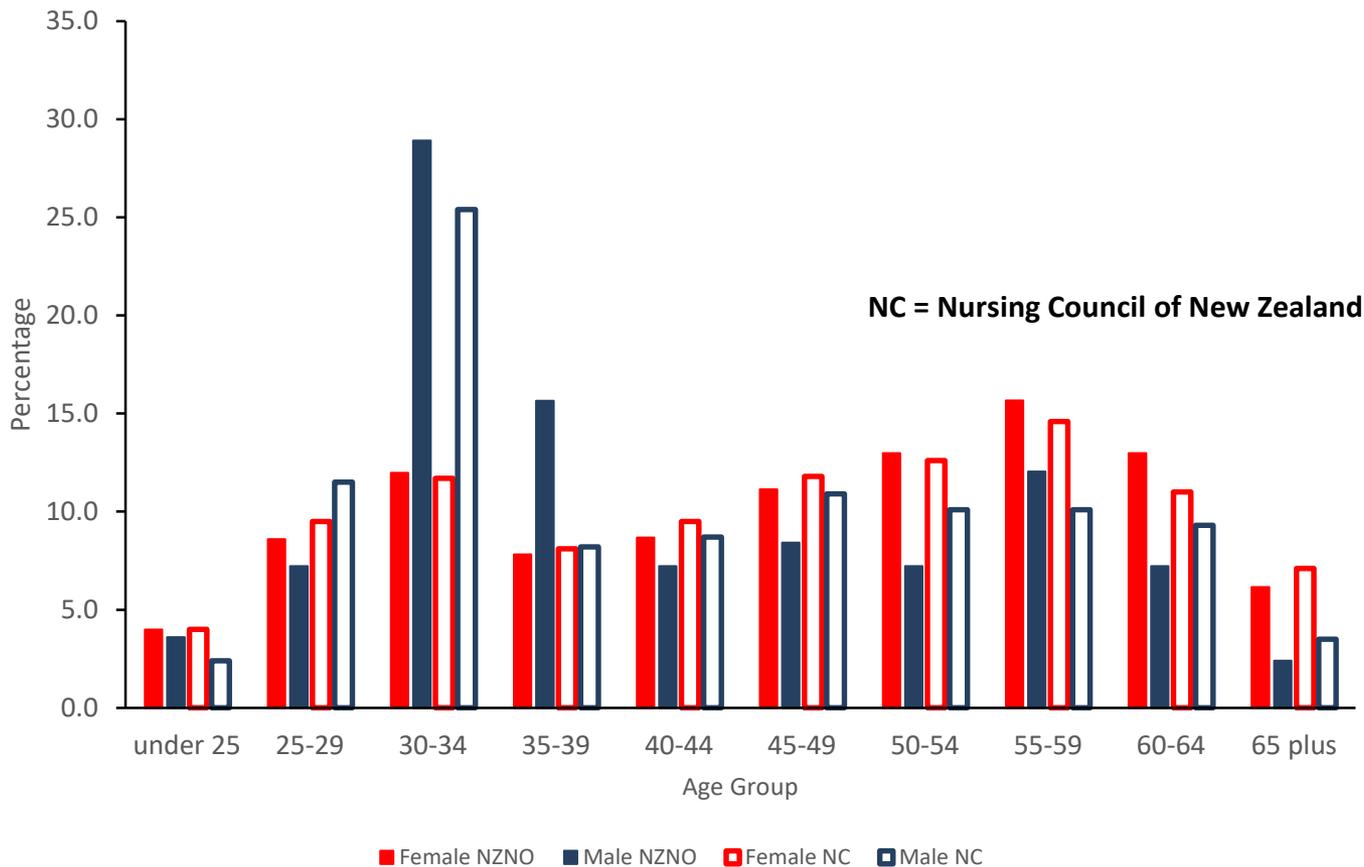
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The Respondents

Characteristics of the members who participated in the survey

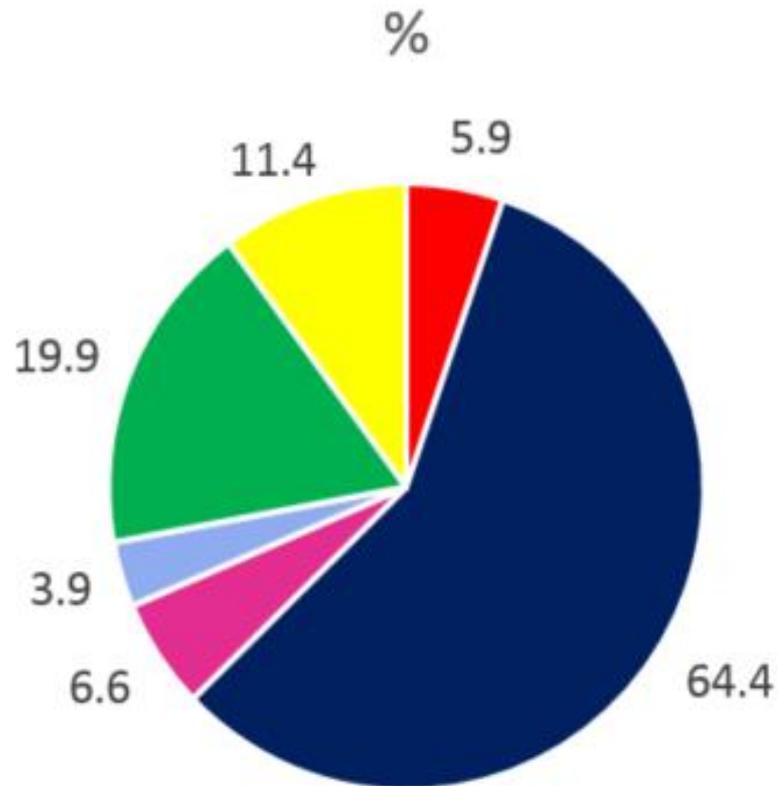
Age and Gender of Respondents



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Ethnicity of Respondents



■ NZ Māori

■ NZ European

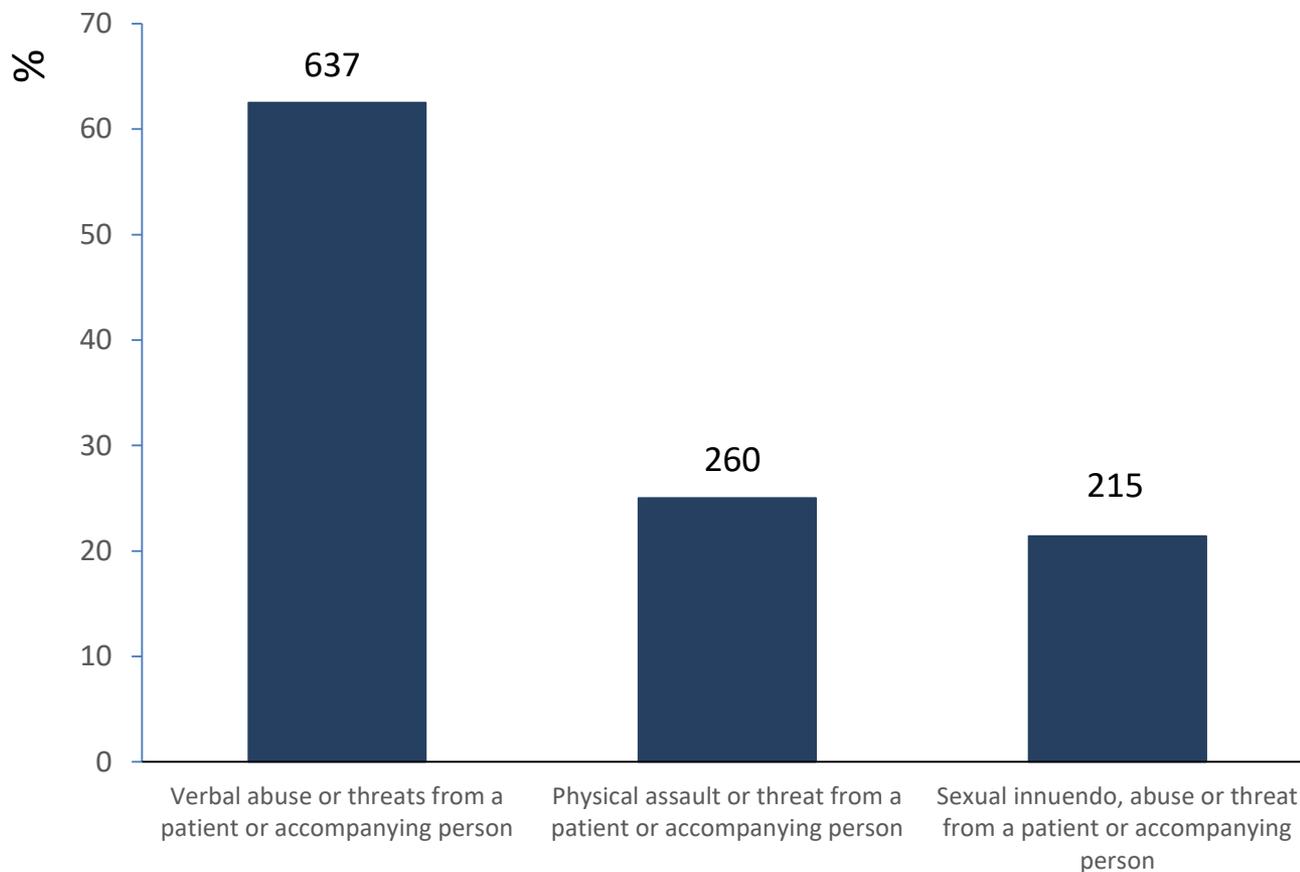
■ Other European

■ Total Pacific

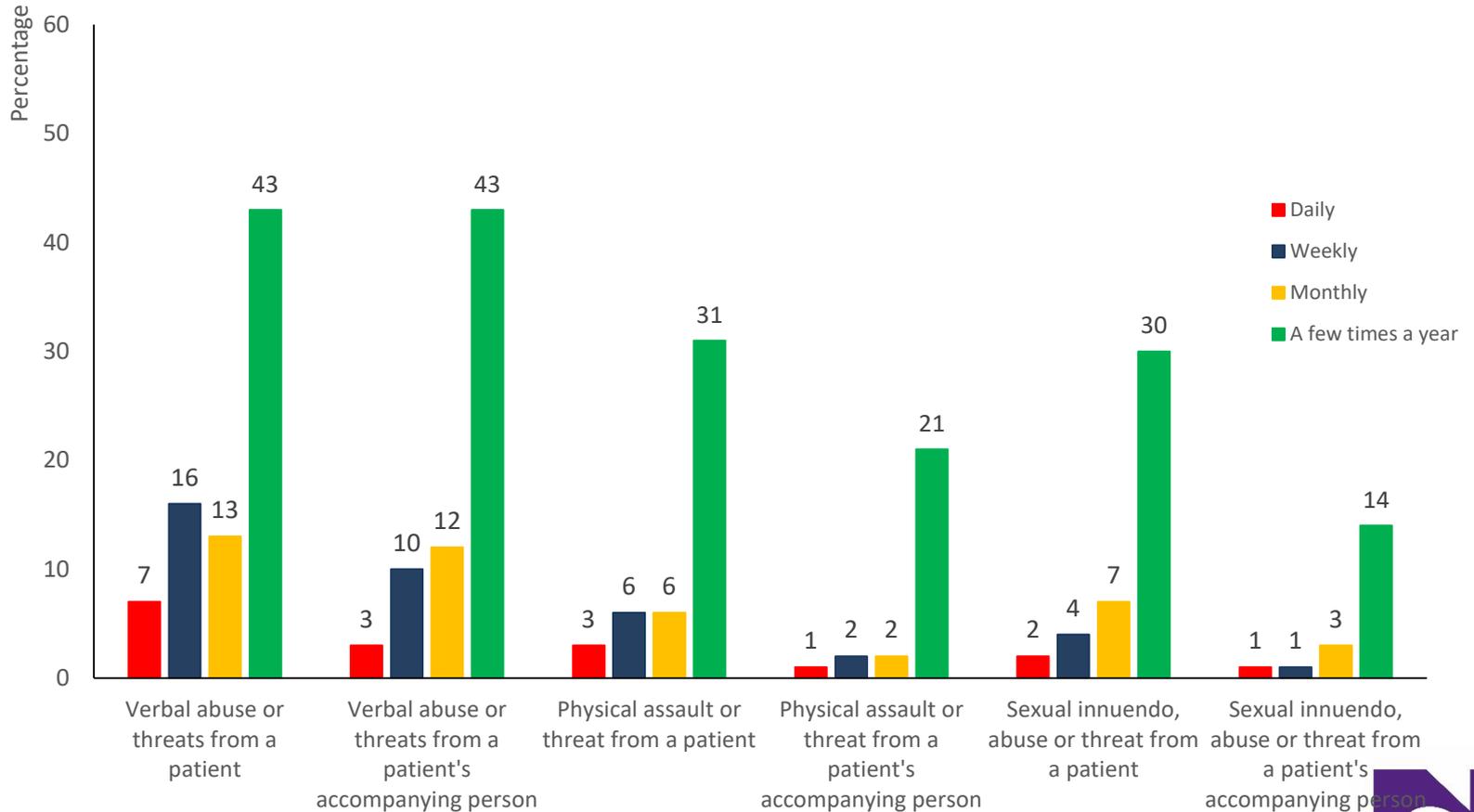
■ Total Asian

■ Other

Verbal, physical or sexual abuse or threat in past 12 months



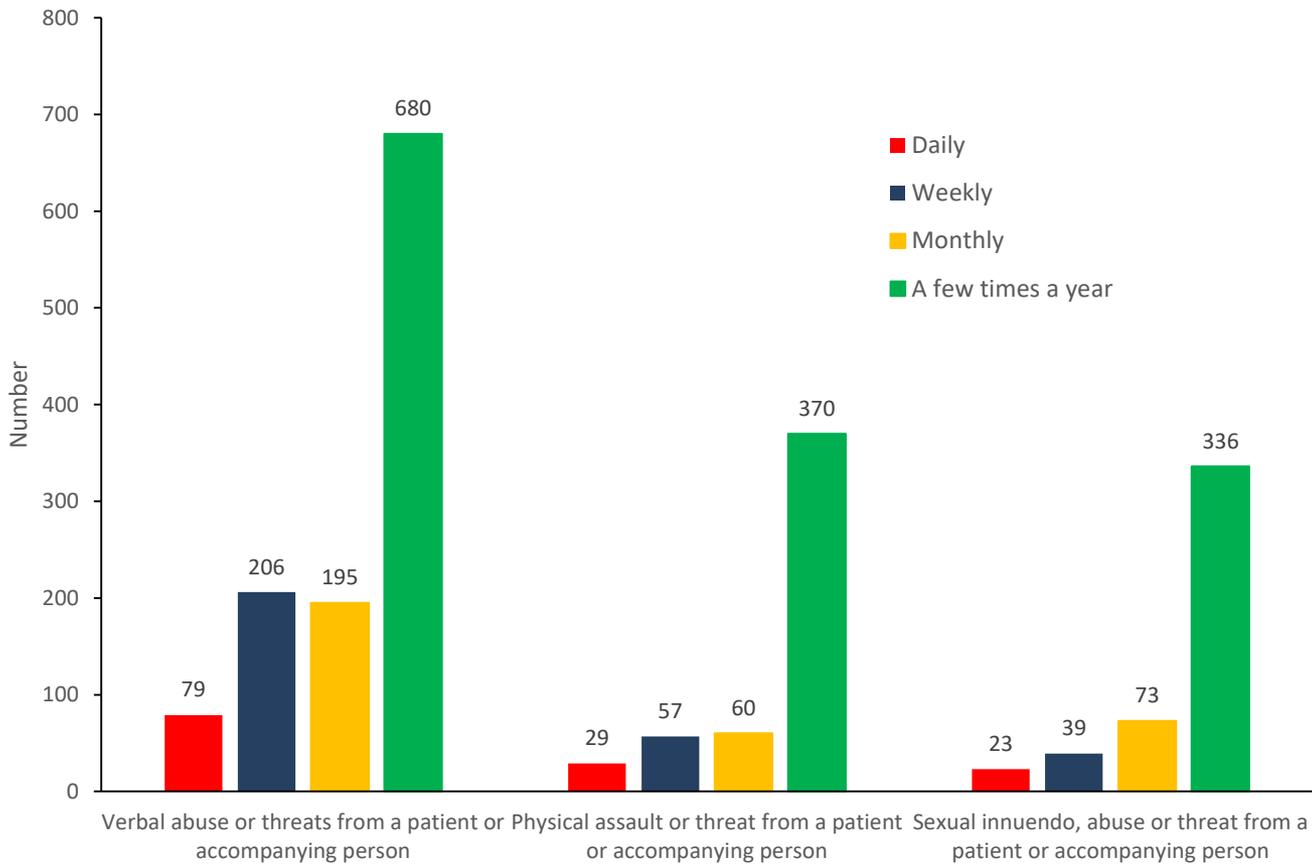
Frequency of Verbal Abuse, Physical Threat or Sexual Innuendo



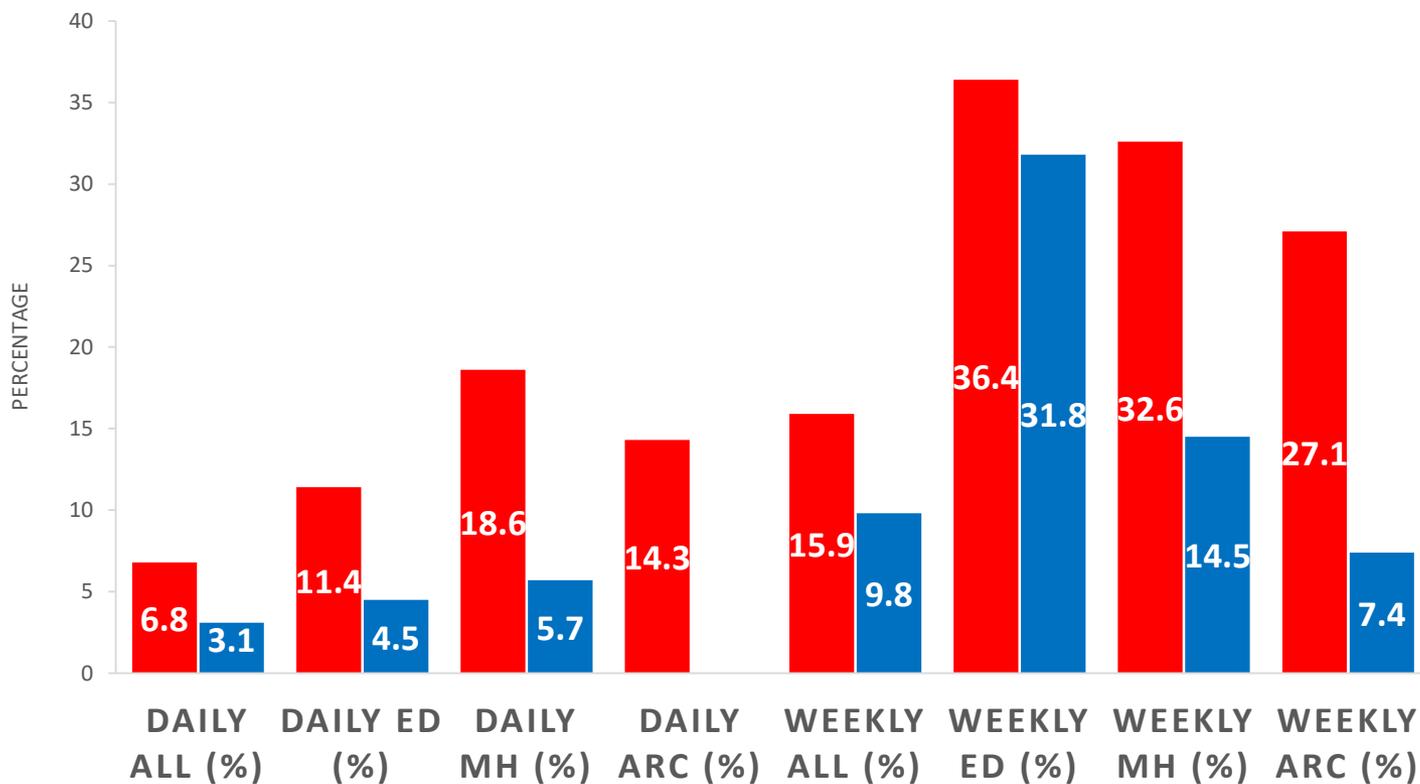
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Frequency of Verbal, Physical or Sexual Abuse or Threat



VERBAL ASSAULT FROM PATIENTS OR ACCOMPANYING PERSONS



■ Patient

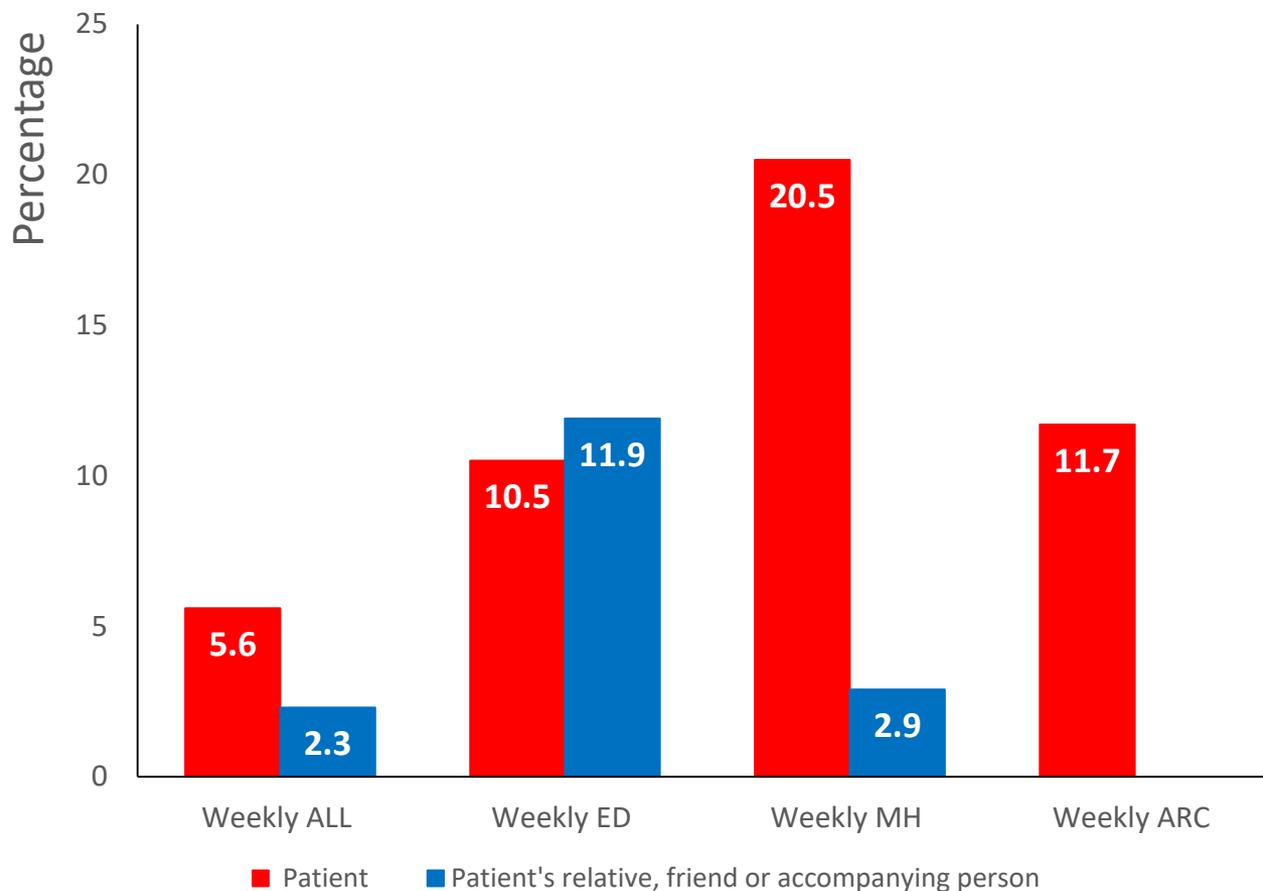
■ Patient's relative, friend or accompanying person



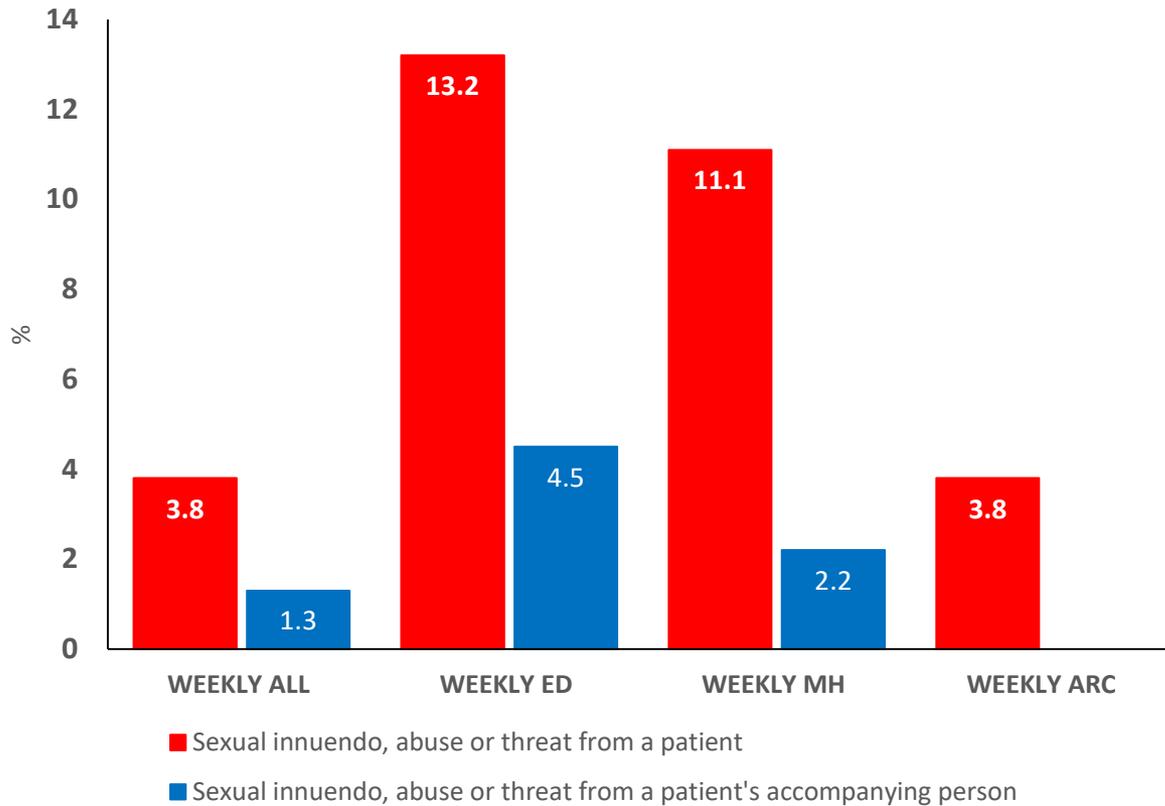
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PHYSICAL ASSAULT OR THREAT FROM PATIENTS OR ACCOMPANYING PERSONS



SEXUAL INNUENDO, ABUSE OR THREAT FROM PATIENTS OR ACCOMPANYING PERSONS



Violence and Aggression by World Region

World Region	Physical Violence	Verbal Violence	Sexual Harassment
Anglo (n=74 566)	43.0 (3.1-94.0)	69.4 (19.9-100)	38.7 (7.6-68)
Asia (n=7792)	27.3 (3.1-84.0)	50.4 (17.2-91.5)	21.6 (0.7-56.0)
Europe (n=55 353)	35.0 (3.0-100.0)	59.5 (5.0-100.0)	16.2 (1.2-38.2)
Middle East (n=13 469)	22.4 (0.5-74.9)	78.5 (38.9-100.0)	22.4 (2.0-53.3)

Data are mean % (range)

Spector et al, 2013



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SUMMARY

- Violence and aggression against nurses in New Zealand is common
- The prevalence of violence and aggression reflects that in other English speaking countries
- These data represent a baseline allowing for tracking the impact of any interventions established



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REFERENCES

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- Swain, N, Gale, C, Greenwood, R (2014). Patient aggression experienced by staff in a public hospital setting. *New Zealand Medical Journal* Vol 127 No 1394.
- Spector PE, Zhou ZE, Che XX (2013). Nurse exposure to physical and nonphysical violence, bullying and sexual harassment: A quantitative review. *Int J Nursing Studies* 51: 72-84.



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Discussion

